

REMARKS

Claim 7-10, 19-25 and 34-61 are in the case and are presented for consideration. This amendment makes clarifying changes to original Claims 7, 21, 24, 38, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 50, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60. Additionally, new Claim 61 has been added. The preliminary amendment is hoped to place the Application in condition for allowance based on the references defining over the prior art of record.

In the final rejection of December 23, 1999, the Examiner rejects Claim 7-10, 19-25 and 34-60 as being obvious based on the teachings of Tanoue et al (US 5,884,117). The Examiner takes the position notes that Tanoue does not teach a detachment of the scanner apparatus from the base apparatus so as to operate as a hand scanner, but that Tanoue does teach that a scanner apparatus 90 can be attached or detached from the base unit 1 (references made to column 10, lines 19-26). The Examiner also makes further comments as to other Claims in the teachings of Tanoue et al.

Applicant notes that the present Application is based on Japanese Application 292722/8 of November 5, 1996. Priority has been properly claimed in this Application as the Application was filed less than a year after the filing date of the Japanese Application, wherein the Inventor claimed priority (see original Declaration). In support of Applicants priority claim Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the attached translation of the original priority Application. This translation is submitted to support Applicants position that the Claims as presented, namely the claimed invention, are supported by the original Japanese Application and Applicant should receive the benefit of the earlier filing date, which filing date is prior to the 35 USC section 102


E prior art date of US 5,884,117 (Tanoue et al). Accordingly, Tanoue et al is not prior art as
35 to the present Application based on the priority claim and is requested that the rejection be
reconsidered in view of this and in view of the fact that Applicants Claims define a novel
combination of features which is neither suggested nor taught by the prior art as a whole.

Favorable consideration on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,



By:


John James McGlew
Registration No. 31,903
McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

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Encl. - Translation of Japanese Priority Application

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SCARBOROUGH STATION
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-0827
(914) 941-5600

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McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.
SCARBOROUGH STATION, SCARBOROUGH, NY 10510-0827

BY:  DATE: June 15, 2000